

Appl. No. 10/064,414
Amdt. dated January 4, 2005
Reply to Office action of October 06, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A secure flash memory device for a computer,
the flash memory device comprising:

5 a connection port for electrically connecting the flash
memory device to the computer;

a microcontroller electrically connected to the
connection port;

10 a flash memory electrically connected to the
microcontroller; and

a pre-installed security program for limiting access to
the flash memory, a portion of the security program
being stored in the microcontroller, the security
program being executed by the computer when the
15 microcontroller receives flash memory access requests
from the connection port;

wherein when the security program is executed, a pass code
stored in the computer is compared with a predetermined code
stored in the flash memory device in a form understandable
20 by the security program to enable the microcontroller to
prevent data from being exchanged between the connection port
and the flash memory when the pass code does not equal the
predetermined code and to enable the microcontroller to allow
data to be exchanged between the connection port and the flash
25 memory when the pass code equals the predetermined code.

2. (cancelled)

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3. (original) The flash memory device of claim 1 wherein the flash memory device is divided into a plurality of partitions and the security program determines how information can be exchanged between the connection port and each partition.

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4. (original) The flash memory device of claim 1 wherein the predetermined code is capable of being set by a user.

5. (original) The flash memory device of claim 1 wherein the predetermined code is encrypted.

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6. (original) The flash memory device of claim 1 wherein the predetermined code is stored in the microcontroller.

7. (original) The flash memory device of claim 1 wherein the predetermined code is stored in the flash memory.

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8. (currently amended) The flash memory device of claim 1 wherein the entire security program is stored in the microcontroller.

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9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) The flash memory device of claim 1 wherein a remaining portion of the security program is stored in the flash memory ~~and another portion of the security program is stored in the microcontroller.~~

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11. (original) The flash memory device of claim 1 wherein the

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security program issues commands to a graphical user interface (GUI) of the computer.

12. (original) The flash memory device of claim 1 wherein the
5 connection port is a universal serial bus (USB) port.

13. (original) The flash memory device of claim 1 wherein the connection port is an integrated drive electronics (IDE) port.

10 14. (original) The flash memory device of claim 1 wherein the security program is written in hypertext markup language (HTML).

15 15. (previously presented) A method for providing security to a flash memory device, the flash memory device comprising a flash memory, a connection port, a microcontroller coupling the flash memory and the connection port, and a security program, the method comprising:

20 pre-installing at least a portion of the security program into the microcontroller;
executing the security program with a computer to which the connection port is temporality connected;
accepting a pass code through the security program; and
25 comparing the entered pass code with a predetermined pass code.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising:
preventing access to the flash memory device if the pass

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code does not equal the predetermined pass code.

17. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising:
allowing access to the flash memory device if the pass
5 code equals the predetermined pass code.

18. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the security program
is written in hypertext markup language (HTML).

10 19. (currently amended) A method for providing security to a flash
memory device, the flash memory device comprising a flash
memory, a connection port, and a microcontroller coupling the
flash memory and the connection port, the method comprising:
installing a portion of a security program written in
15 hypertext markup language (HTML) into the
microcontroller;
executing the security program with a computer to which
the connection port is temporally connected;
accepting a pass code through the security program;
20 comparing the entered pass code with a predetermined pass
code; and
controlling access to the flash memory device based on
the comparison.

25 20. (new) A secure flash memory device for a computer, the flash
memory device comprising:
a connection port for electrically connecting the flash
memory device to the computer;

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a microcontroller electrically connected to the
connection port;
a predetermined code stored in the microcontroller;
a flash memory electrically connected to the
5 microcontroller; and
a pre-installed security program for limiting access to
the flash memory, the security program being executed
by the computer when the microcontroller receives
flash memory access requests from the connection port;
10 wherein when the security program is executed, a pass code
stored in the computer is compared with the predetermined code
to enable the microcontroller to prevent data from being
exchanged between the connection port and the flash memory
when the pass code does not equal the predetermined code and
15 to enable the microcontroller to allow data to be exchanged
between the connection port and the flash memory when the pass
code equals the predetermined code.

21. (new) The flash memory device of claim 20 wherein the
20 predetermined code is capable of being set by a user.

22. (new) The flash memory device of claim 20 wherein the
predetermined code is encrypted.

25 23. (new) The flash memory device of claim 20 wherein a portion
of the security program is stored in the microcontroller.

24. (new) The flash memory device of claim 20 wherein a portion

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of the security program is stored in the flash memory.